AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 47. Canceled

48. (Currently Amended) A moving picture decoding apparatus, comprising:

a memory for storing a previously decoded image as a reference image used for generating a prediction picture;

a prediction picture generation section configured to alternatively apply a plurality of deformation methods to the reference image, the prediction picture generation section receiving indication information indicating one of a plurality of deformation methods and a motion parameter extracted from a bit stream, the prediction picture generation section identifying the indicated one of the plurality of deformation methods ~~based on~~ represented by the indication information, and generating the prediction picture using the reference image based on the identified deformation method, the identified deformation method being applied to the reference image so as to transform a portion of the reference image geometrically; and

a decoding section for decoding a texture from the bit stream, and adding the texture to the prediction picture generated by the prediction picture generation section so as to obtain a decoded image.

49. (Previously Presented) The moving picture decoding apparatus of claim 48, wherein the plurality of deformation methods that are indicated by the indication information and used by the prediction picture generation section to generate the prediction picture include a parallel translation transform method, an affine transform method and a perspective transform method.

50. (Currently Amended) The moving picture decoding apparatus of claim 48, further comprising:

a plurality of memories for storing the reference image, each of the plurality of memories corresponding to at least one of the plurality of deformation methods,

wherein the prediction picture generation section generates the prediction picture based on the reference image stored in a memory of the plurality of memories which corresponds to the deformation method indicated by the indication information.

51. (Currently Amended) A moving picture decoding method, comprising:

storing a previously decoded image as a reference image for generating a prediction picture;

receiving indication information indicating one of a plurality of alternatively applied deformation methods and a motion parameter extracted from a bit stream;

identifying the indicated one of the plurality of deformation methods ~~based on~~ represented by the indication information;

generating the prediction picture using the reference image based on the identified deformation method, the deformation method being applied to the reference image so as to transform a portion of the reference image geometrically; and

decoding a texture from the bit stream, and adding the texture to the prediction picture generated by said generating step so as to obtain a decoded image.

52. (Previously Presented) The moving picture decoding method of claim 51, wherein the plurality of deformation methods that are indicated by the indication information and used by the generating step to generate the prediction picture include a parallel translation transform method, an affine transform method and a perspective transform method.

53. (Currently Amended) The moving picture decoding method of claim 51, further comprising:

generating the prediction picture based on the reference image stored in a plurality of memories, each of the plurality of memories corresponding to at least one of the plurality of deformation methods.